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BALMAIN, AUX 2041

Paper No. 6  
**MAIL**

JUN 14 2001

In re Application of  
Paul Lapstun et al.  
Application No. 09/575,131  
Filed: May 23, 2000  
For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DELIVERY OF  
MAIL

DIRECTOR OFFICE  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

: DECISION ON PETITION  
: TO MAKE SPECIAL

This is a decision on the petition filed May 23, 2000, to make the above-identified application special pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 708.02 (V) and (VI).

In accordance with M.P.E.P. § 708.02, Item V, an application may be granted special status provided that the invention materially enhances the quality of the environment of mankind by contributing to the restoration or maintenance of the basic life-sustaining natural elements, i.e., air, water, and soil.

As well, in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 708.02, Item VI, an application may be granted special status provided that the invention materially contributes to (A) the discovery or development of energy resources, or (B) the more efficient utilization and conservation of energy resources. Examples of inventions in category (A) would be developments in fossil fuels (natural gas, coal, and petroleum), nuclear energy, solar energy, etc. Category (B) would include inventions relating to the reduction of energy consumption in combustion systems, industrial equipment, household appliances, etc.

A petition to accord "special" status requires a statement under 37 CFR 1.102 by the applicant, assignee, or an attorney/agent registered to practice before the PTO explaining how in this case (1) the inventions contribute to the restoration or maintenance of one of these life-sustaining elements and (2) explaining how the invention materially contributes to category (A) or (B) set forth in Item VI above. No fee is required for these such petitions, 37 CFR 1.102(c).

For the above stated reasons, the petition is **GRANTED**.

The application will retain its special status throughout its entire course of prosecution in the Patent and Trademark Office, including appeal, if any to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, subject only to diligent prosecution by the applicant.

The application file will be forwarded to the examiner for expedited prosecution.

Kenneth A. Wieder  
Special Program Examiner  
Technology Center 2600  
Communications  
(703) 305-4710